



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Sept. 27, 2007

For immediate release

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DNR INVESTIGATING DISCHARGE OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE

MEDIA CONTACT: Ken Hessenius at (712) 262-4177

HAWARDEN – An apparent discharge of industrial waste on agricultural land southeast of Hawarden in Sioux County is being investigated by the Iowa DNR.

The substance appears to be industrial waste from livestock processing byproducts, according to Ken Hessenius, supervisor of the DNR's field office in Spencer.

The discolored fluid with a strong odor appears to have been dumped on the ground on a farm near an unnamed tributary of Six Mile Creek. At least a small amount appears to have reached the creek where the water was discolored and had an oily sheen on top for approximately a quarter of a mile.

“It does not appear that the substance was dumped directly in the creek, but it does appear that some washed in from rainfall,” said Hessenius.

Hessenius said it is not believed that the small stream contained any fish even prior to the substance being dumped. There are no livestock with access to the stream and the affected fields are not in an area where there would be human contact.

A number of samples are currently being analyzed to determine what the substance is and where it may have originated. Results of the water sampling are expected to be back from the laboratory next week. If a responsible party can be determined, they would face enforcement actions and potential clean-up costs, Hessenius said.

The dumping was reported to the DNR by a neighbor.

Writer: Kevin Baskins

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FISH KILL INVESTIGATED NEAR FAIRFIELD

MEDIA CONTACT: Dennis Ostwinkle, DNR Washington field office, (319) 653-2135.

DES MOINES — State environmental investigators have identified the source of a fish kill earlier this month in southeast Iowa that left several thousand fish dead, authorities said today.

The Golden Furrow Fertilizer Inc. plant near Fairfield will be issued a notice of violation following the fish kill that impacted a 3.3-mile stretch of Crow Creek and an unnamed tributary. Authorities also said the state will seek restitution for the 7,681 fish killed, which included numerous minnow, darter and sucker species, as well as green sunfish, bluegills, largemouth bass and bullheads. Restitution for the fish and costs incurred during the investigation is expected to total approximately \$12,358.

Additional enforcement actions could be forthcoming following completion of the investigation.

The kill was reported to Iowa DNR officials Sept. 14. The ensuing investigation led to a drainage pipe on the Golden Furrow property, which drained to an unnamed tributary, and eventually, Crow Creek. Reports indicated dead fish were observed below the drainage pipe, but none were found above. Recent test results from water samples taken at the source at the time of the kill showed ammonia readings of 130 parts per million, a level toxic to fish. Smaller levels of various herbicide and pesticide chemicals were also detected in the samples. .

Crow Creek runs through the City of Fairfield. The Golden Furrow site is located on the north side of Fairfield.

Writer: Alan Foster

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WATER, AIR QUALITY ISSUES ON OCTOBER EPC AGENDA

MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.

DES MOINES – A rule proposal which would set the maximum concentration levels of several chemicals that can be present in streams is up for final review by the Environmental Protection Commission Monday.

Most of the chemicals under consideration are banned pesticides and dissolved metals. The DNR has reviewed toxicity data, EPA recommendations and other information to determine the concentrations that would not affect aquatic life in Iowa streams. Some industries and cities in the state that have these metals in their discharges may be affected.

In other action, commissioners will be asked to approve updates to water quality standards concerning stream use designations, final rules for two air quality proposals and several contracts.

In a departure from the regular meeting date, the meeting will be held Oct. 1 at the DNR Air Quality Building, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation will be held at 10:30 a.m. A demand for hearing from Kossuth County has been withdrawn and referrals to the Attorney General's office have been postponed.

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Contract - Aquadrill-Jeff Joslyn, Owner/Driller - Drilling for the STATEMAP Geologic Mapping Project
- Contract – United States Geological Survey – Water Level Measurements, Big Rivers Monitoring, Stream Gaging, Surface Flow Estimation and SPARROW Model
- Contract Amendment – Geospatial Services, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota - National Wetlands Inventory
- Contract Amendment - One Source CEU Training - Operators of Non-Grade-A Small Public Water Supplies
- Contract Amendment – Salem Associates, Inc - Database Programming and Support
- Contract –Iowa State University - 2008 Clean Water Needs Survey
- Adopted and Filed Notice – Chapter 7 – Rules of Practice in Contested Cases
- Final Rules: Air Quality Program Rules Chapter 34: Administrative amendments to the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) provisions.

- Final Rule - Chapters 22 and 33, Air Quality Program Rules – Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Title V rules for Ethanol Production facilities
- Final Rule - Chapter 135, Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks
- Final Rule – Chapter 61 – Water Quality Standards (Chemical Criteria)
- Notice of Intended Action – Amend IAC 567 Chapter 213 “Packaging Heavy Metal Content”
- Proposed Rule – Amendments to Chapter 135, Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements for Owners and Operators of Underground Storage Tanks
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Next Meeting: November 6, 2007
- Items for next month's meeting

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.gov.

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, chair, Manchester; Mary Gail Scott, vice chair, Cedar Rapids; Suzanne Morrow, secretary, Storm Lake; Charlotte Hubbell, Des Moines; Henry Marquard, Muscatine; David Petty, Eldora; Ralph Klemme, LeMars; Susan Heathcote, Des Moines; and Paul Johnson, Decorah. The director of the DNR is Richard Leopold.

Writer: Karen Grimes

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LIQUID APPLICATION OF MANURE ON SOYBEAN GROUND IS PERMITTED

MEDIA CONTACT: Gene Tinker at (563) 927-2640.

DES MOINES – Animal producers who want to apply liquid manure on land planned for soybean plantings next spring may go ahead and do so.

Several producers have questioned DNR field office staff if they need to limit the amount of liquid manure applied to land going into soybeans because of a proposed change in state rules.

“The quick and simple answer is ‘No,’” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR’s animal feeding operations program. “The limits don’t apply yet, so producers who apply manure this fall should be ok.”

The only limitations would be to apply at agronomic rates and abide by any separation distances from environmentally sensitive areas. Producers who are required to have a manure management plan must follow the plan and use a certified manure applicator.

More information on manure application is available on the DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/landapp.html>.

Writer: Karen Grimes

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CROP AND ANIMAL PRODUCERS - TEST SOILS NOW

MEDIA CONTACT: Jeremy Klatt at 641-424-4073.

DES MOINES – Crop and confinement animal producers should take soil samples this fall before land applying manure, according to the DNR.

Crop and animal producers who use manure as a fertilizer need to collect and use the soil sample test results as they run the phosphorus index, a requirement for all manure management plans.

“Producers have a narrow window this fall and next spring to get soil sampling done for the P index which many producers need to incorporate into their manure management plans in 2008 and 2009,” said Jeremy Klatt, a DNR environmental specialist. “Everyone who submitted their first manure management plan prior to April 1, 2002, needs to incorporate the P index into their first updated plan submitted after Aug. 25, 2008.

Klatt advised producers to do the soil testing now and to allow plenty of time to run the P index and revise their manure management plans. That way if producers find that they need additional fields for manure application, they have time to find them.

Crop producers who accept manure from confinements may also want to talk to their manure provider about how the P index could affect manure application on their land and if they need to have soil samples taken.

Klatt recommended sampling soils for phosphorus and acidity (pH) right after harvest and before any fall fertilizer or manure application. Sampling after fertilizer or manure application may not give an accurate representation of the nutrient status of the field,” he said.

Producers must take at least one sample for every 10 acres of the field. Generally, Iowa State University’s soil sampling recommendations or other credible method should be followed.

“It’s possible to use soil samples taken in the last four years to run the P index, if they meet the minimum requirements,” Klatt added.

Manure management plans help producers optimize crop production and plan their nutrient placement on each field. They are required by state law for producers who have capacity for more than 500 animal units in a confinement. The plans must be submitted to the DNR annually.

In the past, most plans considered the amount of nitrogen needed by the planned crop. Now, crop producers need to consider both nitrogen and phosphorus when planning manure applications. The phosphorus or P index takes into consideration the lay of the land, the distance from a stream and the phosphorus that is available in the soil.

Producers must submit a complete MMP using the phosphorus index for each field once every four years. The complete MMP and soil loss calculations (detailed RUSLE2 report) and P Index calculations must be sent to the local DNR field office.

The DNR will not be granting exemptions or extensions of the deadlines for the P index-based plans. See the DNR Web site for more information about the P index:

www.iowadnr.gov/afo/mmp.html#phosphorus or
www.iowadnr.gov/afo/files/pindex_fs.pdf.

Check the Iowa State University soil fertility Web site for information about soil sampling at extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/. Finally, more information about the P index can be found in back issues of Odor and Nutrient Management at the Iowa Manure Management Action Group's Web site at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/pubsnl.html>.

Writer: Karen Grimes

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CITIES AND INDUSTRIES TO LEARN IF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CHANGES ARE NEEDED

MEDIA CONTACT: Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409.

DES MOINES – City officials and industry managers are invited to attend any of six meetings to discuss how changing water quality standards could affect compliance with permit limits at their wastewater treatment facilities.

Mayors, city administrators, public works directors, wastewater operators, industry representatives and private citizens should plan to attend the October meetings. The DNR invited 424 affected cities and industries to help their representatives understand specific changes anticipated in their discharge limits.

“It’s important for managers to understand how these changes could affect plant operations, because ultimately these changes could affect city and industry budgets” said Adam Schnieders who works on water quality standards for the DNR.

As water quality standards are upgraded, the DNR has examined hundreds of streams. DNR specialists have looked for evidence that people swim or wade in the streams, and that they are suitable for maintaining fish and other aquatic life. As evidence and data of recreational and aquatic life uses are analyzed, many Iowa stream reaches may be reclassified.

This work could mean that an affected community or industry may need to upgrade its treatment plant or process.

“For example, if recreational use is considered attainable directly downstream of a treatment plant outfall, the city or industry may be required to disinfect their treated wastewater before discharging it to the nearby stream,” Schnieders said.

He added that the first part of each meeting will include a general overview and question-and-answer session. The DNR will provide one-on-one assistance in the second half of the meeting.

“There will be five or six DNR staff members available to review the data for each facility and to discuss how findings might affect its operation,” he said. “We can discuss the field work, options for treatment and implementation, time tables and whatever else they would like to talk about,” he added. “Managers should walk out of the meeting with a very good idea of how their plant will be impacted.”

Representatives can attend any of the following meetings:

Spencer - Oct. 3, 4 to 8 p.m., Spencer Public Library, 21 East Third St.

Mason City - Oct. 8, 4 to 8 p.m., Mason City Public Library, 225 Second St. SE.

Manchester - Oct. 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Manchester Public Library, 304 North Franklin St.

Atlantic - Oct. 12, 1 to 5 p.m., Atlantic Public Library, 507 Poplar St.

Des Moines - Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Des Moines DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth St., Fifth Floor Conference Rooms.

Washington - Oct. 18, 1 to 5 p.m., Washington Public Library, 120 East Main St.

More information is available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.com/water/uaa.html.

Writer: Karen Grimes

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SCHOOL BUSES RUNNING CLEANER WITH COMPLETION OF EPA GRANT ACTIVITIES

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Rains, Senior Environmental Specialist, (515) 281-6061

DES MOINES — The Bus Emission Education Program (BEEP) reported the installation of an additional 213 diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) on school buses in 33 school districts in its September 2007 report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). BEEP collaborators now believe that nearly every eligible school bus in Iowa that can be retrofitted with a DOC has had it installed.

The report was the final step required in the \$248,000 Clean School Bus USA grant awarded to BEEP from the EPA in June 2006. Grant funds were also used toward the purchase of biodiesel fuel in 27 school districts.

BEEP is a collaborative effort to reduce childhood exposure to harmful diesel exhaust. Its objective is to reduce emissions in school bus fleets. The partners include the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI), the Iowa Association of School Boards, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Education, and the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association. Auto-jet Muffler Corporation was awarded the contract for the DOCS.

According to data from the EPA's verification, each DOC reduces particulate matter air emissions by 20 percent, carbon monoxide emissions by 40 percent, and hydrocarbon emissions by 50 percent. EPA studies also link reductions in hydrocarbon and particulate matter emissions with the use of various blends of biodiesel compared to low sulfur diesel fuel.

With an earlier \$250,000 EPA grant awarded in September 2004, BEEP was able to provide 335 diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) that were installed in 70 school districts, and support the purchase of biodiesel in three school districts.

The complete report is located on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/air/citizen/educate/files/BEEPGrantReport.pdf

Writer: Mindy Kralicek